

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY- -OCTOBER 2, 2008- -6:00 P.M.

Mayor Johnson convened the Special Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Vice Mayor Tam led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL - Present: Councilmembers deHaan, Gilmore,
Matarrese, Tam, and Mayor Johnson - 5.
Absent: None.

AGENDA ITEM

(08-410) Recommendation to approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the formation and implementation of Sister City Relations between Alameda, California, the United States of America and Jiangyin, the People's Republic of China.

Councilmember Matarrese moved approval of the staff recommendation.

Councilmember deHaan seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous voice vote - 5.

Mayor Johnson introduced Alameda County Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker.

Ms. Lai-Bitker expressed her sincere congratulations to Jiangyin and Alameda for the formation of the Sister City relationship; stated that she looks forward to many wonderful exchanges between the two cities; thanked committee members and Social Services Human Relations Board (SSHRB) for all the hard work.

Stewart Chen, SSHRB, introduced Mayor Wang Xinan and the delegation from Jiangyin.

Mayor Johnson welcomed Mayor Xinan and the delegation; stated today is an important day for Jiangyin and Alameda; that she hopes the delegation enjoyed the tours; Jiangyin and Alameda face some of the same problems; that she hopes both cities can learn how to deal with common problems and issues and that successes can be shared also; thanked the Chinese government and people of China for the great 2008 Olympic games; stated the Chinese athletes performed very well and set many standards in various events; that she hopes that mutual visits will occur in the future; today, Alameda and Jiangyin join a great international tradition; cities have formed Sister City relationships as a way to empower citizen diplomats to build good will and understanding across borders; local governments, businesses, and citizen volunteers form relationships across cultures to enhance the social, educational, and business

partnerships that promote good will; the newly formed Sister City relationship will be a long-term partnership between the two great communities; signing the Agreement will formalize intentions to promote good will and positive partnerships; common interests are celebrated and residents are encouraged to build the understanding and good will that can lead to lasting peace in the world.

Deputy Consul General Wu Wenxiang expressed warm congratulations for the formation of Sister City relations between Jiangyin and Alameda; stated Jiangyin looks forward to future cooperation and exchanges; that he hopes the relationship will bear fruit in the time to come.

Mayor Xinan stated that he is privileged to come to Alameda to sign the Agreement establishing the City Sister relationship between Jiangyin and Alameda; the friendship between the two cities has entered a new stage; cooperation and friendship will be expanded in the fields of culture, education, as well as government; Jiangyin is economically developed and industrially modernized; United States investors have invested in Jiangyin; Jiangyin's local entrepreneurs are investing in the United States; cooperation between the two cities will be very successful; Alameda has a highly sufficient government; Jiangyin can learn a lot from Alameda; he hopes that the relationship between Jiangyin and Alameda will be everlasting; extended an invitation to everyone to visit Jiangyin.

Cynthia Wasko, SSHRB, read a statement from Governor Schwarzenegger; thanked Mr. Chen for all of his work.

Francisco Hsieh, 12th Assembly District, read a statement from Assemblywoman Fiona Ma.

Mayor Johnson and Mayor Xinan signed the MOU.

Mayor Xinan presented the Council with Chinese-Asian artwork symbolizing friendship between Jiangyin and Alameda.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Johnson adjourned the Special Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lana Stoker
Acting City Clerk

Agenda for meeting was posted in accordance with the Brown Act.